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ABSTRACT

Following a 1988-89 legislative mandate that required public four-year colleges and universities in Virginia to report the academic progress of community college transfer students, seven senior institutions submitted data to Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) on the progress of PVCC transfer students. The data provided, however, were inconsistent, with only five of the colleges supplying student-identifiable data and no agreement existing among the colleges as to what exactly constituted a transfer student. According to the submitted data, 131 PVCC students transferred to one of the following senior institutions: James Madison University (JMU); Longwood College (LC); Radford University (RU); Old Dominion University (ODU); the University of Virginia (UV); Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU); and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPISU). Information provided by the colleges revealed the following: (1) PVCC transfer students performed as well as all students at public senior institutions in Virginia; (2) 85% of all transfers enrolled at UV or JMU; (3) the average grade point average (GPA) of PVCC transfers to UV (3.003) was slightly higher than the average GPA of all UV students (2.953); (4) PVCC transfers performed as well as all students at LC, ODU, and RU, but not as well as all students at VCU or VPISU; (5) for all PVCC transfers, the average GPA was 2.745, and over one-third had GPA's between 3.0 and 4.0; and (6) PVCC students transferring 50 or more credits performed slightly better at senior institutions than those transferrring less than 50 credits. (VVC)

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THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO VIRGINIA PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (1988-89)

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PVCC Institutional Research Brief

May 1990

PVCC TRANSFERS TO VIRGINIA PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (1988-89)

The 1988-89 academic year was the first year public four-year colleges and universities in Virginia were required by Guideline 8 of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) *Guidelines for Student Assessment* to report to any community college from which 5 or more students transferred the academic progress of those transfer students. Seven senior institutions--James Madison University (JMU), Longwood College, Old Dominion University (ODU), Radford University, the University of Virginia (UVa), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI&SU)--submitted data to PVCC and the analysis of and conclusions drawn from that data are reported in the study, *The Academic Performance of PVCC Transfers to Virginia Public Senior Institutions of Higher Education (1988-89)* (PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 3-90, May 1990). This brief highlights that study.

It appears that on the whole PVCC transfer students perform about as well academically as all students at public senior institutions of higher education in Virginia. This was certainly the case with transfers to UVa and JMU, the two schools with the largest number of transfers. These two schools accounted for 85% of all PVCC transfers counted in the study. The average GPA of PVCC transfers to UVa (3.003) was slightly higher than the average GPA of all UVa students (2.953), and the average GPA of PVCC transfers to JMU (2.728) was only slightly lower than the average GPA of all JMU students (2.79).

It can be assumed that PVCC transfers to Longwood, Radford, and ODU also performed about as well as all students at these institutions. The average GPA of PVCC transfers to Longwood was 2.659, to ODU 2.699, and to Radford 2.713. However, at VCU and VPI&SU, PVCC transfers probably did not perform as well academically as all students. The average GPA of PVCC transfers to VCU was 2.398, and to VPI&SU 1.858.

Average, maximum, and minimum GPA's by senior institution are shown in Table 1. For all PVCC transfers the average GPA was 2.745. Slightly less than half of the PVCC transfers had GPA's ranging between 2.0 and 3.0 (45.5%); over one-third had GPA's ranging between 3.0 and 4.0; only 15% had GPA's below 2.0; and 4 transfers had 4.0, or perfect, GPA's.

(Continued on reverse side)

TABLE 1: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA (1988-89)

Senior Institution	Number	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
James Madison University	85	2.728	1.000	4.000
Longwood College	14	2.659	1.683	3.571
Old Dominion University	8	2.699	1.980	3.490
Radford University	16	2.713	1.615	3.750
University of Virginia	56	3.003	0.175	4.000
Virginia Commonwealth University	28	2.398	0.571	4.000
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	6	1.858	1.140	2.330
TOTAL	213	2.745	0.175	4.000

It also appears that PVCC students transferring 50 or more credits to senior institutions perform slightly better academically than those transferring fewer than 50 credits. As can be seen in Table 2, the average GPA of those students with 50 or more transfer credits was slightly higher than those with fewer than 50 credits (2.783 as opposed to 2.649). Although data was available from only one senior institution, UVa, the same may well be true with respect to graduation from PVCC. The UVa GPA of those who graduated from PVCC before transfer was higher than those who did not (3.208 as opposed to 2.927).

TABLE 2: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER CREDITS

No. of Transfer Hrs.	No. of Transfers	Avg. GPA
0-24	45	2.681
25-49	76	2.627
50-74	74	2.763
75-99	11	2.981
100 & Over	2	2.463
TOTAL	208	2.745

No. of Transfer Hrs.	No. of Transfers	Avg. GPA
0-49	121	2.649
50 & Over	87	2.83
TOTAL	208	2.745

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THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO VIRGINIA PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (1988-89)

INTRODUCTION

In January 1986, the Virginia legislature mandated that each public institution of higher education within the Commonwealth begin assessing the outcomes of undergraduate education. As part of this assessment, the legislature recommended that all state-supported colleges and universities submit annual reports to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and that these reports "include information about the achievement of transfer students from the community colleges enrolled in four-year colleges and universities."[1]

General directions for student outcomes assessment were quickly formulated, and Guideline 8 of SCHEV's *Guidelines for Student Assessment* required that four-year colleges and universities enrolling five or more transfer students from Virginia Community College System (VCCS) institutions meet with those institutions during the summer of 1988 and establish articulation agreements as to the type and amount of data that would be exchanged. Guideline 8 further stipulated that VCCS institutions should receive data from senior institutions by June 1, 1989.

Eight public senior colleges and universities agreed to provide data to Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). These eight institutions were George Mason

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[1]"The Measurement of Student Achievement and the Assurance of Quality in Virginia Higher Education," Report of Study Conducted by the Council of Higher Education for Virginia to the Governor and General Assembly of Virginia, Senate Document 14, January 1986.

University (GMU), James Madison University (JMU), Longwood College, Old Dominion University (ODU), Radford University, the University of Virginia (UVa), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI&SU). By late June 1989, only five of these schools had supplied data to PVCC, and in three of the five cases the data was only preliminary. Data received at this time was reported in *Piedmont Virginia Community College Student Assessment Report.*[2]

By fall 1989, seven of the eight institutions had submitted data on PVCC transfers. Utilizing the data submitted by these schools, this study traces the academic progress of PVCC transfers to public senior colleges and universities in Virginia.

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[2]PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 4-89, June 1989, pp. 14-16. For the reader interested in learning more about PVCC transfers to four-year colleges and universities, a number of studies have already been published. Two major studies on PVCC transfers to UVa have been conducted and in each year's graduate follow-up study, a section is reserved for graduates continuing their education at four-year schools. These are referenced in *Piedmont Virginia Community College Student Assessment Report.*

METHODOLOGY

All data in this study were obtained from public senior colleges and universities in Virginia. Because of the SCHEV decision to have individual community colleges establish separate agreements with senior institutions, neither the content nor the format of the data were consistent from institution to institution. One institution supplied all data on two floppy disks in dBase III Plus files with report forms available; another supplied data in dBase III Plus files; a third supplied data on a floppy disk in ASCII (text) format; a fourth supplied a written report generated by SAS, one page per student; another supplied a bound, written report of mostly aggregate data; still another supplied a one-page report listing PVCC transfers in table format; and finally, one sent student transcripts of all PVCC transfers.

Some controversy has arisen over the privacy rights of transfer students. Several senior institutions of higher education maintain that any "student identifiable" information on transfers cannot be shared between senior and VCCS schools. In fact, VCU included a "Statement of Principle on Sharing Student Information" in a study on VCCS transfer students. Pertinent sections of this "Statement" are listed below.

> Consistent with the guidelines on student assessment developed by SCHEV and agreements between VCU and VCCS institutions, we will provide on an annual basis information on individual students' admission, placement in remedial courses, transfer credits accepted, number of hours attempted, GPA, and academic status . . . Consistent with the position taken by the Office of the Attorney General (see Memorandum, Forsch to Gordon K. Davies, SCHEV, 9-23-88), VCU has taken a more restrictive stance on the release of identifiable individual student information. In keeping with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and the Virginia Privacy Protection Act, we do not plan to release identifiable information regardless

> of assurances of confidentiality made by receiving institutions . . . We believe that strongly protecting students privacy and developing alternative evaluation strategies is in our mutual best interests.[3]

Other senior institutions, however, agreed to supply student-identifiable information. JMU, for example, "agreed to provide student-identifiable information to each [VCCS] institution as long as the institution agreed in writing to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act as it applies to the sharing of data."[4]

Individual community colleges, for the most part, desire student-identifiable information for the sole purpose of utilizing transfer data in academic program review. Not knowing in which program a transfer was enrolled at the community college makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the community college to use information supplied by a senior institution productively with instructional program administrators and faculty.

Five of the seven senior institutions supplying data to PVCC supplied student-identifiable information. Because this issue is still unresolved and because of time constraints, the PVCC record of transfers is largely absent from this study. Also, to insure the confidentiality of individual student information, in any case where only one student is shown in a table, actual data is suppressed and replaced with asterisks (*****).

Two other major limitations of this study should be noted. First, which transfers to report differed from institution to institution. UVa and VPI&SU, for instance, reported

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[3]Thomas V. McGovern, *Follow-up Study of Transfer Students from Virginia Community Colleges: 1987-1988* (Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University, February 1989), p. 10.

[4]Frank Doherty, *The Academic Performance of Transfers from Virginia's Public Two-Year Institutions at James Madison University* (Office of Planning and Analysis, James Madison University, May 1989), p. 2.

information on only those transfers admitted in the fall of 1988; on the other hand, JMU, Longwood, and Radford reported information on all transfers enrolled during the 1988-89 academic year, regardless of when they were admitted to the university; ODU and VCU reported information on PVCC transfers during the 1987-88 academic year.

Secondly, no agreement exists between senior institutions as to what exactly constitutes a *transfer student*. In a survey of two-year college transfers, SCHEV had to append the following note to the table showing the number of transfers from each two-year college to each four-year college:

> George Mason University--- a "transfer student" is an applied, accepted, and enrolled student who is not a first-time student or a re-admit student.
>
> Clinch Valley College--- a "transfer student" is a student having attended another institution full-time for at least one semester or quarter during a regular academic year; or who, through part-time attendance at another institution, transfers 10 or more hours to CVC.
>
> Virginia Military Institute Admissions defines a "transfer student" as a student who has attended an accredited college on a full-time basis for at least 12 to 15 quarter hours during a regular session for at least one quarter or semester. Students who earned advanced credits while still enrolled in secondary school, summer school, or evening college programs [are not included].
>
> College of William and Mary defines a "transfer student" as a student accepted as an undergraduate with college credit from another college and attending CWM for the first time or have left CWM to attend another college (not approved summer study) and are returning to William and Mary.
>
> Christopher Newport College--- a "transfer student" is a student who has been previously enrolled in one or more collegiate institutions and has transferred to CNC with or without credits.[5]

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[5]"Special Assessment Survey, Transfer Students from Two-Year Virginia Institutions, Fall 1988," State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, 16 May 1989. Data for this survey was taken from the Fall 1988 SCHEV B-7 Report.

One senior institution discovered to its dismay that it had supplied incorrect data to two-year colleges. A senior official at this institution noted that "some of the students who transferred courses . . . were not considered genuine transfers for reporting purposes to SCHEV," and that "as many as 30 percent of the students whose records [were] initially analyzed . . . turned out to be students who took courses at the two-year institutions as either high school students or noncurricular students."

Because of the confusion as to who a transfer student is, as well as the confusion over which transfer students and what data to report, this study consists of a brief overview of the academic performance of all PVCC transfers, followed by sections summarizing the academic performance of transfers at each of the seven reporting senior institutions.

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (GENERAL)

According to SCHEV, 131 students transferred from PVCC to one of the 15 senior public institutions of higher education in Virginia.[6] Ten of the 15 senior institutions were chosen by PVCC transfers. As can be seen in Figure 1, by far the largest number of PVCC transfers enrolled at UVa. Next came JMU, followed closely by VCU.

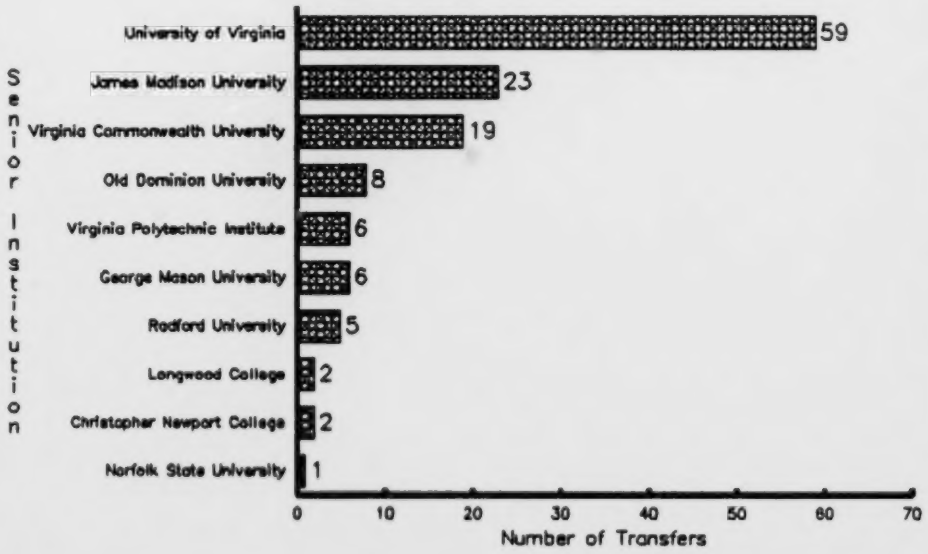

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA (FALL 1988)

As noted above, only two schools, UVa and VPI&SU, limited their data to transfers enrolling during Fall Semester 1988; the remaining schools, with the exception of ODU and VCU, reported data on all transfers from PVCC enrolled during 1988-89. ODU and

[6] *Ibid.*, p. 1.

VCU reported data on all PVCC transfers enrolled during 1987-88. In all, data were reported on 220 PVCC transfers. Of these, 213 actually completed at least one course at the senior institution by the end of the spring term of 1989.

With respect to their academic performance after transfer, as measured by grade point average (GPA), most PVCC transfers seemed to perform about as well as other students at the senior institutions which they attended. As will be seen in subsequent sections of this report, the average GPA for all students at most of these senior institutions was approximately 2.7 or 2.8. The average, or mean, GPA for all PVCC transfers was 2.745.

The school with the highest average GPA was UVa with 3.003, and the school with the lowest was VPI&SU with 1.858. Average, maximum, and minimum GPA's by senior institution are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA (1988-89)

Senior Institution	Number	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
James Madison University	85	2.728	1.000	4.000
Longwood College	14	2.659	1.683	3.571
Old Dominion University	8	2.699	1.980	3.490
Radford University	16	2.713	1.615	3.750
University of Virginia	56	3.003	0.175	4.000
Virginia Commonwealth University	28	2.398	0.571	4.000
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	6	1.858	1.140	2.330
TOTAL	213	2.745	0.175	4.000

Slightly less than half of the PVCC transfers had GPA's ranging between 2.0 and 3.0 (45.5%); over one-third had GPA's ranging between 3.0 and 4.0; only 15% had GPA's below 2.0; and 4 transfers had 4.0, or perfect,

GPA's. The range of these GPA's is graphically depicted in Figure 2.

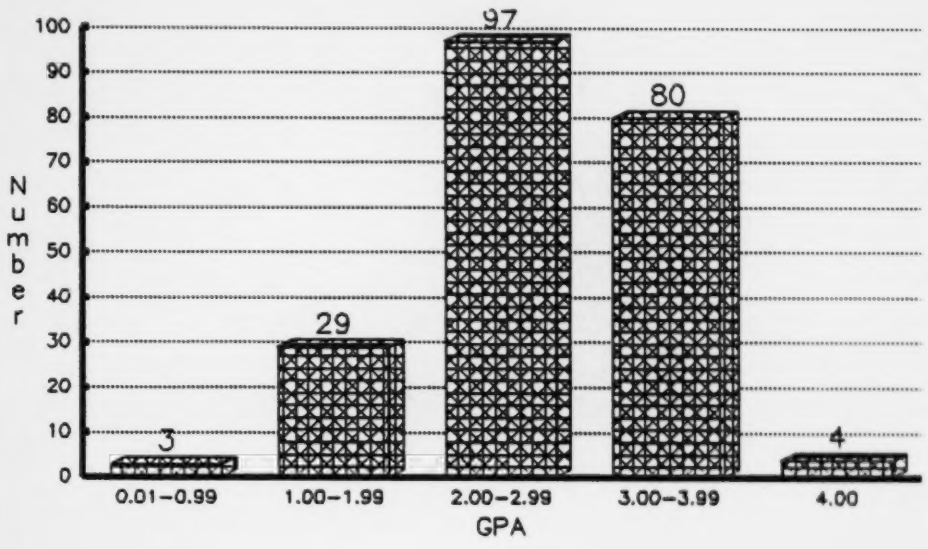

FIGURE 2: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA (1988-89)

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY)

According to research conducted by JMU's Office of Planning and Analysis, of the 393 VCCS students who transferred to JMU during the fall semesters of 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988, PVCC provided the fourth largest number (47), topped only by Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC; 122), Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC; 62), and Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC; 57).[7] As was shown in Figure 1, 23 of the 47 PVCC transfers first enrolled at JMU during Fall Semester 1988.

The average number of transfer credit hours accepted for PVCC transfer students by JMU was 36.4, a slightly lower number than the average number of transfer credit hours for all VCCS transfer students. Still, as can be seen in Table 2, over one-half of all PVCC transfers (52%) were classified as seniors. Another 32% were classified as juniors, and only 16% were classified as either freshmen or sophomores.

TABLE 2: AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRANSFER HOURS OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO JMU BY CLASS AT JMU

Class	No.	Avg. No. Transfer Hrs.
Freshman	1	******
Sophomore	13	31.308
Junior	27	34.593
Senior	44	39.682
TOTAL	85	36.388

Table 3 shows the average, minimum, and maximum GPA's of PVCC transfers by class at JMU. The average GPA of PVCC transfers was 2.728, which was almost the same as the average GPA of all VCCS transfers (2.733) and all JMU students (2.79). Forty-one of the PVCC transfers (48.2%) had GPA's between 2.0 and 3.0; 32 (37.6%) had GPA's between

[7]Frank Doherty, *The Academic Performance of Transfers from Virginia's Public Two-Year Institutions at James Madison University* (Office of Planning and Analysis, James Madison University, May 1989), p. 4.

3.0 and 4.0; 10 (11.8%) had GPA's between 1.0 and 2.0; and 2 had GPA's of 4.0.

TABLE 3: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Class	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
Freshman	1	*****	*****	*****
Sophomore	13	2.315	1.230	3.437
Junior	27	2.760	1.000	4.000
Senior	44	2.749	1.283	4.000
TOTAL	85	2.728	1.000	4.000

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (LONGWOOD COLLEGE)

Fourteen students at Longwood College were identified as having received a total of 12 or more transfer credits from PVCC during the two previous academic years. The minimum number of transfer credits accepted by Longwood for any PVCC transfer was 16 and the maximum was 86. The average number of transfer credits accepted was slightly over 53, as can be seen in Table 4.

Seven (50%) of the PVCC transfers to Longwood enrolled in the School of Education and Human Services. Within this school, 4 transfers selected Elementary Education as their major; one selected Physical Education,; another selected Social Work; and the third selected Therapeutic Recreation. Four (29%) of the PVCC transfers enrolled in the School of Business and Economics. Two chose Pre-Business as their major, and two chose Business Administration. The remaining 3 (21%) transfers enrolled in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. One selected English as a major, another selected History, and the third selected Psychology.

TABLE 4: AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRANSFER HOURS OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO LONGWOOD COLLEGE BY LONGWOOD SCHOOL

School	No.	Avg. No. Transfer Hrs.
Business and Economics	4	47.168
Education and Human Services	7	56.524
Liberal Arts and Sciences	3	53.000
TOTAL	14	53.096

The academic success of these 14 PVCC transfers, as measured by GPA, is presented in Table 5. The average GPA of all 14 was 2.659, which is probably close to, or slightly lower than, the average GPA of all Longwood students. Seven PVCC transfers

(50%) had GPA's between 2.0 and 3.0; 6 (43%) had GPA's between 3.0 and 4.0; and only one (7%) had a GPA lower than 2.0. GPA's were lowest for the 4 students enrolled in the School of Business and Education and highest for the 7 enrolled in the School of Education and Human Services.

TABLE 5: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO LONGWOOD COLLEGE

School	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
Business and Economics	4	2.323	1.683	3.364
Education and Human Services	7	2.813	2.250	3.571
Liberal Arts and Sciences	3	2.742	2.451	3.400
TOTAL	14	2.659	1.683	3.571

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (RADFORD UNIVERSITY)

Sixteen PVCC transfers were enrolled at Radford University during Fall Semester 1988. The average number of transfer hours accepted by Radford was 39.35; the minimum number was 2 and the maximum number was 66.

Two had enrolled for the first time at Radford during Fall Semester 1985, 3 during Fall Semester 1986, 1 during Spring Semester 1987, 7 during Fall Semester 1987, 1 during Spring Semester 1988, and 1 during Fall Semester 1988. One PVCC transfer was classified as a freshman, 2 as sophomores, 4 as juniors, and 9 as seniors.

TABLE 6: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Class	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
Freshman	1	*****	*****	*****
Sophomore	2	1.876	1.615	1.984
Junior	4	2.240	1.917	2.675
Senior	9	2.961	2.314	3.750
TOTAL	16	2.719	1.615	3.750

As can be seen in Table 6, the average GPA for all PVCC transfers was 2.719. The minimum GPA was 1.615, and the maximum was 3.750. As was the case with PVCC transfers to JMU, generally the higher the classification and the more credits transferred, the better was the GPA of the transfer student. The 4 juniors had higher GPA's than the 3 underclassmen, and the 9 seniors had much higher GPA's than the juniors.

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY)

Old Dominion University provided information on 12 PVCC transfers who enrolled during the 1987-88 academic year. Eight of the 12 first enrolled at ODU during Fall Semester 1987, 2 during Spring Semester 1988, and 2 during Summer Semester 1988. Two declared majors in Business (undecided), 2 postponed declaring a major, and the remaining transfers declared majors in the following fields: Art, Biology, Educational Leadership, Electrical Engineering, History, Mechanical Engineering, Physical Education, and Psychology.

Table 7 presents average, minimum, and maximum GPA's of the PVCC transfers to ODU by the number of credit hours transferred. The average GPA for all transfers was 2.699; the minimum GPA was 1.98; and the maximum GPA was 3.49. Only 1 student had a GPA below 2.0; 3 had GPA's between 2.0 and 3.0; and 4 and GPA's over 3.0. Four students had not completed any courses at ODU.

TABLE 7: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

No. Transfer Hrs.	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
0-49	3	3.359	3.000	3.490
50-99	3	2.491	1.980	3.100
Over 100	2	2.463	2.450	2.500
TOTAL	8	2.699	1.980	3.490

Unlike PVCC transfers to other senior institutions, PVCC students with fewer transfer hours performed better academically at ODU than those with greater hours. All 3 PVCC students transferring less than 50 hours had GPA's of 3.0 or greater; only one of

the students transferring between 50 and 100 hours had a GPA of 3.0 or greater; and neither of the 2 students transferring over 100 hours had a GPA of 3.0 or greater.

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA)

Fifty-nine PVCC students transferred to the University of Virginia in the fall of 1988. Eighteen of the students had earned associate degrees from PVCC, and 41 had transferred before graduating from PVCC. Of the 59 students, 56 completed at least one course at UVa during either Fall Semester 1988 or Spring Semester 1989.

The 59 PVCC students were by far the largest number of transfers to UVa from any single VCCS institution and accounted for over half of all VCCS transfer students. The VCCS school transferring the next largest number was NVCC with 18.

TABLE 8: TRANSFER HOURS AND GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (1988-89)

UVa School	No.	Hrs. Earned at PVCC	Avg. GPA Earned at PVCC	Hrs. Earned at UVa	Avg. GPA Earned at UVa
Architecture	1	****	*****	****	*****
Arts and Sciences	24	58.0	3.481	26.2	2.964
Commerce	10	50.5	3.620	29.6	2.863
Education	3	44.0	3.396	28.3	3.106
Engineering	4	66.5	3.382	23.6	2.443
Nursing	14	55.7	3.664	22.9	3.428
TOTAL	56	58.2	3.527	26.4	3.003

As can be seen in Table 8, the average number of transfer hours accepted by UVa was 58.2. As can also be seen, the students' GPA at PVCC was considerably higher than their GPA at UVa. This supports the popular notion that transfer students to senior institutions will typically receive lower grades. The average PVCC GPA of the transfers was 3.527; the average UVa GPA was 3.003.

Nevertheless, PVCC transfers to UVa performed quite well academically. The overall average GPA of the transfers at UVa compares favorably with the average GPA of

TABLE 9: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Avg. GPA	No.	Pct.
0.00-0.99	1	1.8%
1.00-1.99	3	5.4%
2.00-2.99	24	42.8%
3.00-3.99	27	48.2%
4.00	1	1.8%

all UVa students (2.953 through Fall Semester 1988), and as can be seen in Table 9, one-half of all transfers had GPA's of 3.0 or higher. Less than 10% had GPA's below 2.0.

Table 10 presents average, minimum, and maximum GPA's of PVCC transfers to UVa by UVa school. Transfer students performed quite well academically in all schools except Engineering. Students in Engineering had an average GPA of 2.443. Only 4 engineering students, however, were counted, and this number is probably too small for meaningful conclusions to be drawn. In the 3 schools with the largest numbers of transfers--Arts and Sciences (24), Nursing (14), and Commerce (10)--average GPA's ranged from 2.863 to 3.428. In two schools, Nursing and Engineering, average GPA's exceeded 3.0.

TABLE 10: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (1988-89)

UVa School	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
Architecture	1	*****	*****	*****
Arts and Sciences	24	2.964	0.175	3.878
Commerce	10	2.863	2.340	3.500
Education	3	3.106	2.948	3.243
Engineering	4	2.443	2.035	3.000
Nursing	14	3.428	2.000	4.000
TOTAL	56	3.003	0.175	4.000

TABLE 11: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA (1988-89)

UVa School	No. Receiving Associate Degrees from PVCC	GPA Earned at UVa	No. NOT Receiving Associate Degrees from PVCC	GPA Earned at UVa
Architecture	0	-----	1	*****
Arts and Sciences	7	3.192	17	2.842
Commerce	2	2.580	8	2.914
Education	2	3.197	1	*****
Engineering	1	*****	3	2.406
Nursing	4	3.762	10	3.350
TOTAL	16	3.208	40	2.927

It is interesting to note that those transfers to UVa who received associate degrees from PVCC performed better academically than those who did not. The average GPA of the 16 transfers receiving degrees from PVCC was 3.208; the average GPA of those not receiving degrees was 2.927. As can be seen in Table 11, the only UVa school at which transfers not receiving a PVCC degree had higher GPA's than those receiving degrees was the Commerce School.

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY)

Fifty-five PVCC students (or former students) applied for admission to VCU in Fall Semester 1987; 41, or 75%, were accepted, and 28, or 51%, enrolled. The 28 PVCC transfers represented 5% of all VCCS transfers to VCU. It is interesting to note that the acceptance rate for PVCC transfers was higher than that for all VCCS transfers (75% as opposed to 70%), but the enrollment rate was slightly lower (51% as opposed to 53%).

At the end of Fall Semester 1987, 7% of the PVCC transfers were Dean's List students and 54% were in good academic standing. Thirty-two percent were in academic difficulty and 7% had withdrawn or never enrolled. Although a larger percentage of PVCC transfers than VCCS transfers were Dean's List students (7% as opposed to 4%), a larger percentage were also in academic difficulty (32% as opposed to 23%). On the whole, then, PVCC transfers to VCU did not perform as well academically as VCCS transfers during fall 1987.

At the end of Spring Semester 1988, 4% of the PVCC transfers were Dean's List students, 64% were in good academic standing, 18% were in academic difficulty, and 14% had withdrawn or not enrolled. At the same time, 6% of all VCCS transfers were Dean's List students, 56% were in good academic standing, 15% were in academic difficulty, and 23% had withdrawn. While a slightly larger percentage of PVCC transfers than VCCS transfers were in academic difficulty, a smaller percentage had withdrawn. In this respect, PVCC transfers fared about as well as all VCCS transfers during Spring Semester 1988.

Table 12 presents average, minimum, and maximum GPA's of PVCC transfers to VCU by VCU school. As can be seen, PVCC transfers performed best in the school of Art and worst in the schools of Business and Allied Health and Nursing.

TABLE 12: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY (1987-88)

VCU School	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
Arts	7	2.736	1.526	3.778
Business	7	2.012	1.350	4.000
Education	1	*****	*****	*****
Humanities and Sciences	9	2.302	0.571	3.569
Social Work	2	2.417	2.276	2.557
Allied Health/ Nursing	2	2.417	1.995	2.300
TOTAL	28	2.398	0.571	4.000

The average GPA of PVCC transfers, 2.398, was the second lowest average GPA of PVCC transfers to any of the 7 schools reported in this study. Why this was so is unclear. Whether PVCC transfers have more difficulty at VCU than at other senior institutions, or whether PVCC transfers in 1987-88 performed worse than transfers in other years is a question which only future studies can answer.

THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PVCC TRANSFERS (VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY)

Twenty-six PVCC students (or former students) applied for admission to VPI&SU for fall term 1988. Twelve were accepted and 6 enrolled. Two selected Animal Science as their major, 2 selected Forestry and Wildlife, 1 selected Elementary Education, and 1 selected History. An average of 38.5 credits from PVCC were accepted by VPI&SU from an average of 55.7 credits presented. In other words, 69% of the students' PVCC credits transferred to VPI&SU as expected.

The 6 PVCC transfers enrolling at VPI&SU in fall 1988 did not earn high grades during the 1988-89 academic year. Their average GPA at VPI&SU was 1.858. The lowest GPA was 1.14 and the highest was only 2.33. This average GPA was far lower than that of any of the other 7 senior institutions reported in this study.

Of course, as can be seen in Table 13, the GPA's of these students at PVCC were not as high as the GPA's of transfers to many of the other senior institutions in Virginia. It would be interesting to know how many of the transfers to VPI&SU had graduated from PVCC before transferring. It will be even more interesting to see if PVCC transfers to VPI&SU during other years perform better than fall 1988 transfers.

TABLE 13: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY (1988-89)

PVCC Transfers to VPI&SU (Fall 1988)	No.	Avg. GPA	Min. GPA	Max. GPA
GPA at PVCC	6	3.018	2.240	3.729
GPA at VPI&SU (1988-89)	6	1.858	1.140	2.330

CONCLUSIONS

It appears that on the whole PVCC transfer students perform about as well academically as all students at public senior institutions of higher education in Virginia. This was the case with transfers to UVa and JMU, the two schools with the largest number of transfers. These two schools accounted for 85% of all PVCC transfers counted in this study. It can be assumed that PVCC transfers to Longwood, Radford, and ODU also performed about as well as all students at these institutions. However, at VCU and VPI&SU, PVCC transfers probably did not perform as well academically as all students.

TABLE 14: GPA'S OF PVCC TRANSFERS TO PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VIRGINIA BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER CREDITS

No. of Transfer Hrs.	No. of Transfers	Avg. GPA
0-24	45	2.681
25-49	76	2.627
50-74	74	2.763
75-99	11	2.981
100 & Over	2	2.463
TOTAL	208	2.745

No. of Transfer Hrs.	No. of Transfers	Avg. GPA
0-49	121	2.649
50 & Over	87	2.783
TOTAL	208	2.745

It also appears that PVCC students transferring 50 or more credits to senior institutions perform slightly better academically than those transferring fewer than 50 credits. As can be seen in Table 14, the average GPA of those students with 50 or more transfer credits was slightly higher than those with fewer than 50 credits (2.783 as opposed to 2.649). Although data was available from only one senior institution, UVa, the same may well be true with respect to graduation from PVCC. The UVa GPA of those

who graduated from PVCC before transfer was higher than those who did not (3.208 as opposed to 2.927).

It would be nice if all senior institutions submitted consistent and comparable data. At a minimum, all transfers from a community college studying at a senior institution should be included, as well as those graduating during the year, and for each student the following information should be provided: the social security number, number of PVCC credits accepted by the senior institution, number of hours attempted at the senior institution, cumulative GPA at the senior institution, GPA at the senior institution during the academic year, school of enrollment at the senior institution, class, major, and status (Dean's List, Academic Probation, Good Standing, etc.). With such information, a more reliable and valid picture of community college transfer students could be drawn.

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